

“Investing in our schools is investing in our future. I want Washington’s public schools to be the best in the nation.”

Education is the foundation of each child’s future. As Washington’s Governor, I know that making the right investments in our education system will secure a bright future for our children and our state.

Motivated teachers and students ready to learn are the basic ingredients of successful public schools. Both are key in meeting the high standards – and the high expectations – we all have set for Washington’s students and teachers.

My Budget for Improving Student Achievement in Our Public Schools

1 Provides focused, individualized learning.
I want all students to have the opportunity to live up to their potential. That’s why I’m investing in programs that provide individual attention for kids who need it.

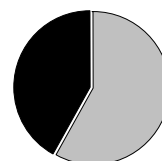
In addition, my budget increases access to early learning and restores Initiative 728, which provides for class-size reduction and extended learning opportunities both during and after school hours.

2 Provides better pay for teachers. Many teachers educating our children have gone three years without a salary cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). It is only fair that our higher expectations be accompanied by higher compensation, so my budget resumes Initiative 732.

3 Expands opportunities to meet new graduation requirements. Students deserve the resources that will help them to succeed.

Implementing the graduation requirements and assessment changes that were adopted by the 2004 Legislature requires us to provide students with more individual attention in high schools, alternative testing opportunities, access to retake tests, an appeals process and timely 10th grade WASL results.

**The K-12 Education budget is about \$11 billion,
more than 40% of the State General Fund**



The Governor's Budget for Student Achievement

Provide focused, individualized learning

Restores class-size reduction. The Governor's budget restores Initiative 728, which was suspended by the Legislature during the past two years. Per-student funding for class-size reduction rises from the current level of \$254 to \$450 by the 2008 school year. These funds will be distributed to local school districts for specific activities that include class-size reduction and extended learning opportunities. *\$138 million GF-State*

Increases preschool access for more young learners. Early learning opportunities are critical to a child's later success in school. By increasing funding for the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, more than 200 additional students will have access to early learning. The investment also will boost funding for programs already in place. *\$7.2 million GF-State*

Provides special help for students with disabilities. The Governor's budget increases funding for special education students statewide, so school districts that face extraordinary special education costs will get the financial assistance they need. *\$50 million GF-State, \$3 million federal funds*

Provide better pay for teachers

Increases compensation for school teachers and staff. Cost-of-living salary adjustments for teachers and other public school staff are provided statewide, consistent with Initiative 732, which calls for annual cost-of-living increases tied to the Seattle Consumer Price Index. *\$139 million GF-State*

Expand opportunities to meet new graduation requirements

Provides individual attention for high school kids who need it. For the first time, the Learning Assistance Program provides more individual attention to high school students who need extra help to meet the state's high academic standards, especially in math. Starting in 2008, high school students will be required to pass the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) before graduating. *\$42 million GF-State*

Improves graduation standards. The Governor's proposal implements the graduation requirements and assessment changes that were adopted by the 2004 Legislature. When implemented, students will have alternative opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge, access to retake tests, an appeals process and timely 10th grade WASL results. *\$3.5 million GF-State*